

FACTS

5. The preceding paragraphs are hereby realleged as if fully stated herein.
6. Defendant Onnera USA, Inc. d/b/a Fagor Commercial Inc./INNOVA Group (hereinafter “Fagor”) designs, manufactures, markets, imports, distributes and sells a wide range of consumer kitchen products, including the “Fagor 3-in-1 Electric Multi-Cooker Model 670040230.” The Fagor 3-in-1 Electric Multi-Cooker Model 670040230 is the device giving rise to this lawsuit.
7. Defendant touts that the Fagor 3-in-1 Electric Multi-Cooker Model 670040230 (hereinafter the “Multi-Cooker”) is equipped with features such as a “self-locking lid and automatic pressure release setting for your convenience,” as well as a “lid [that] will not open while there’s pressure inside the cooker for safety,” and “two independent pressure control valves and anti-overheating protection for added security.”
8. Despite Defendant’s claims, it designed, manufactured, marketed, imported, distributed, and sold, both directly and through third-party retailers, a product that suffers from serious and dangerous defects. These defects cause significant risk of bodily harm and injury to its consumers, and Defendant knew or should have known of these defects.
9. Specifically, the Multi-Cooker has defects that permit the lid of the pressure cooker to explode off and/or be removed while the device is pressurized with heat and steam still inside the unit, contrary to their marketing and advertising. When the lid is removed and/or blown off under these circumstances, the extreme pressure trapped within the unit causes the scalding hot contents inside to be projected from the unit and into the surrounding area, including onto unsuspecting consumers.

10. On July 4, 2022, Plaintiff Vickie Williams was using the device to cook. She went into her kitchen to check on the progress. As she merely touched the lid, and without any advance warning, the Multi-Cooker's lid exploded off the top. The contents inside the device simultaneously exploded and covered Ms. Williams, causing her to sustain significant burns and substantial bodily injuries.
11. Defendant knew or should have known of these defects but puts profit ahead of safety by continuing to sell the Multi-Cooker to consumers, failing to warn consumers of the serious risks posed by the defects, and failing to recall the dangerously defective Multi-Cooker regardless of the risk of significant injuries to Plaintiff and consumers like her.
12. Defendant ignored and/or concealed its knowledge of these defects in the Multi-Cooker from Ms. Williams, as well as the general public, in order to continue to generate profit from the sale of the Multi-Cooker. This behavior demonstrates a conscious disregard for the obvious and foreseeable health and safety risks posed to the public, which they knew would occur and which did occur to Ms. Williams.
13. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff suffered significant, painful, and permanent bodily injuries, in addition to incurring medical expenses, lost wages, physical pain, mental anguish, and diminished enjoyment of life.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
STRICT LIABILITY

14. All the preceding paragraphs are realleged herein.
15. The Multi-Cooker was defective and proximately caused Plaintiff's injuries in one or more of the following ways:
 - a. The Multi-Cooker was designed and formulated with foreseeable risks that exceeded the benefits associated with the Multi-Cooker's design and formulation;

- b. The Multi-Cooker was manufactured so that at the time it left the control of Fagor, it deviated in a material way from:
 - i. its design specification(s), formula and/or performance standards; and/or
 - ii. otherwise identical units manufactured to the same design specifications, formula, or performance standards;
- c. The Multi-Cooker was not properly tested to identify the unreasonable hazard of exploding under pressure;
- d. The Multi-Cooker was not accompanied by adequate warnings or instructions, and when the product left the control of Fagor, Fagor both:
 - i. knew or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known about the defective lid/pressurizing system; and
 - ii. failed to provide the warning or instruction that a manufacturer exercising reasonable care would have provided concerning the exploding lid under pressure, in light of the likelihood that the Multi-Cooker would cause the harm Plaintiff suffered and in light of the likely seriousness of that harm;
- e. The Multi-Cooker was not accompanied by adequate post-marketing warnings or instructions because at a relevant time after it left Fagor, Fagor:
 - i. knew or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known about the defective lid and pressurizing system associated with the product; and
 - ii. failed to provide the post-marketing warning or instruction that a manufacturer exercising reasonable care would have provided concerning that risk, in light of the likelihood that the Multi-Cooker would cause the

harm Ms. Williams suffered and in light of the likely seriousness of that harm;

- f. The product failed to conform to representations made by Fagor when it left its control, which were justifiably relied on by Ms. Williams; and
 - g. At the time the Multi-Cooker left Defendant's control, Defendant breached its duties to provide a product of good and merchantable quality and fitness for its intended use.
16. As a direct and proximate result of the defective nature of the Multi-Cooker, as described above, and of the Defendant's negligence as described below, Plaintiff Vickie Williams sustained severe burns to her body. These injuries have caused Plaintiff to suffer acute and chronic pain, emotional distress and worry, interference with normal and usual activities of daily living, and loss of life and enjoyment, some or all of which are permanent in nature, all to her non-economic damage. She has undergone several procedures and has scarring from both the burns and the subsequent procedures.
17. Ms. Williams' injuries are a direct and proximate result of the defects inherent in the Multi-Cooker, including the faulty lid, which is not safe or secure even after Ms. Williams followed all the directions provided by Defendant, as well as the pressurizing system, which allows the device to excessively pressurize to the point where the lid explodes.
18. Ms. Williams' injuries constitute substantial and permanent physical deformities and disfigurement.
19. As a further direct and proximate result of the above-mentioned defective nature of the Multi-Cooker, as described above, Plaintiff has incurred past medical expenses. Some or

all of Plaintiff's injuries are permanent, and Plaintiff will additionally incur medical expenses into the future in an amount to be determined at trial.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for damages against the Defendant, in a sum more than Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), together with the costs of this action.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey M. Heller

Jeffrey M. Heller, Esq. (0087795)
NUREMBERG, PARIS, HELLER &
MCCARTHY CO., LPA
600 Superior Avenue E., Suite 1200
Cleveland, OH 44114
P: 216.621.2300
F: 216.771.2242
E: jheller@nphm.com

Attorney for Plaintiff
Vickie Williams

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury with the maximum allowable jurors under the law.

/s/ Jeffrey M. Heller

Jeffrey M. Heller, Esq. (0087795)
NUREMBERG, PARIS, HELLER &
MCCARTHY CO., LPA

Attorney for Plaintiff
Vickie Williams